

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION ON GOAL 5 OF THE PROPOSED 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Report on Goal 5: Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girl

Target 5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere

1. Child Sex Ratio (CSR): Besides monitoring the sex ratio, rigorous social awareness campaigns must be in place; the local governance units may be rewarded for their innovative approaches that brings positive outcome.
2. Legal safeguards of new reproductive technologies need to be strictly monitored. The preferences for male child through Assisted Reproductive technologies (ART) must be effectively challenged through media.
3. Strict monitoring of the implementation of **Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act** and stringent actions against violators must be enforced.
4. Gender sensitization for pregnant mothers, ICDS staff and Village Health Nurses.
5. Ensure that each state has gender-disaggregated data; conduct periodic review of the data and reformulate strategies to address gender discrimination, both overt and covert.
6. Media literacy programs for parents, teachers and students so that they are able to critically analyze the content and stereotypical portrayal of women, men, people with disabilities, differently gendered people and sexual minorities.
7. Sexual and Reproductive Health Education for both girls and boys; adequate sanitation facilities with special focus on women with disabilities that takes into consideration the availability, affordability and accessibility to eco friendly sanitary pads.
8. Women-friendly labour policies must be framed and implemented, including equal wages for equal work.

9. Legal literacy to address gender issues like the Domestic Violence, trafficking, sexual harassment at the work place, property inheritance, dowry and early marriage must be imparted at all levels on a regular basis.

Team: S. Jeya Margaret, Jansi Rani, Vinothini, Sivagami, Pavalam and Uma Maheswari

Target 5. 2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spheres, including trafficking, sexual and other forms of exploitation

1. Zero tolerance to all forms of violence: physical, emotional, sexual, financial and verbal. Create visibility that violence against women is non negotiable. This could be done through messages proclaiming ‘Say no to violence,’ ‘violence against women is a punishable offence,’ to be oriented on ration cards, aadhar cards, voter IDs railway and bus tickets; displayed prominently on display boards in public spaces, TV scrolls, and movie tickets.

2. Zero tolerance to all forms of violence against vulnerable groups: women, children, differently abled people, differently gendered and sexual minorities such as LGBTQI.

3. Making work spaces gender responsive, gender capable and safe for all vulnerable groups. Institutionalizing Sexual Harassment Committees at work places (in accordance with the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act 2013).

4. Create access to justice through setting up all-women police stations; help desks in public spaces, toll-free help lines and legal awareness camps for the judiciary and law enforcing agencies.

5. Sensitize boys and men about the implications of sexual harassment of women at the workplace and the Sexual Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act, 2013.

6. Integrate gender concerns in school and college syllabi to foster gender responsive and gender capable academic institutions.

7. Legal awareness and legal literacy for all—‘law is not only for lawyers!’

8. Media sensitization workshops for media professional to foster sensitive, responsible and informed reporting.
9. Sensitize criminal justice professionals (police, lawyers and judges) to respect the dignity and privacy of the victim, treat them with empathy and compassion and enhance their access to justice.
10. Sensitize parents of school children on gender responsive and gender sensitive parenting and parenting styles. This could be done through PTAs in schools or through SHGs in rural areas.
11. Sensitize parents on legal aspects such as the equal property law.
12. Sensitize parents-to-be (who undergo pre natal check ups) and new mothers who've just had babies at hospitals/nursing homes about informed and responsible parenting styles.

Target 5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

1. Sensitize parents, family members and members of the larger community such as religious leaders and owners of wedding halls about the minimum age at marriage for girls and create awareness about the hazards and deprivations of child and early marriage such as maternal mobility and mortality and infant mortality and morbidity.
2. To ensure that marriage formalities include a verification of the birth certificate.

Team: Dr. Beulah Sekar, Dr. Nandini Murali, Mr. RajSekar, Ms. Padmavathi and Ms Arul Mani.

Target 5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate

1. Social protection policies/ schemes targeted at women/family members must have the entitlement in the name of women (property, house land etc.)

2. Unpaid work of women must be given visibility and accounted for in the Census, NSS and other relevant data.
3. Public provisioning for capacity building on self-esteem/self-awareness for homemakers.
4. Financial incentives to home makers to involve themselves in community development activities.
5. Instituting legal provisions—paternity leave (three months), mandatory for the husband to be present during the birth of the baby, mandatory involvement of the husband in child care activities after the birth of the child.

Team: Sugandha Ramaswamy, A. Nirmala, V.Vimlaya, S. Selvi and S. Anitha

Target 5.5 Ensure women’s full and effective participation in equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life.

1. Establishing capacity building institutions on governance for women. The institution must be quasi-governmental in nature and shall be regulated by a government agency.
2. The institution will function at three levels: district, block and panchayat levels.
3. At the panchayat level, the trainings shall address the following aspects: needs assessments, resource mobilization, decision making, implementation, gender mainstreaming, and create opportunities for women.
4. At the district level, the training will address the following aspects: create awareness and knowledge in women about government mechanisms in legislative, executive and judicial aspects; enrich women to participate in them in tune with their vision; and sensitization about spaces that exist for women.
5. At the block level the training will address the following aspects: Interfacing and networking with other stakeholders; advocacy; gender sensitive agenda such as training for gender responsive budgeting; political participation in the electioneering process and resources available.

6. Decision making collectives at different levels, facilitated by people trained in community mobilization, which will enhance women's participation in societal processes that impact on their lives.
7. Members of the collectives to be part of policy making and planning processes addressing women's issues.
8. Ensure responsive, inclusive participation of women and representation in decision making at all levels.

Team: B. Geetha, Gayathri, Shyamala, Vasantha mala and Uma Rani

Target 5.6 Ensure universal access to Sexual and reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences

1. Universal access to health care for the greater common good. Increase the number of PHCs; with one outlet in every village with 500 households.
2. Ensure adequate infrastructural facilities and adequate staffing of medical and paramedical personnel in PHCs.
3. Public provisioning of Menstrual Hygiene Management practices with eco friendly sanitary pad, dispensing machines installed in public places.
4. Awareness and practice of Menstrual Hygiene Management among girls and women.
5. Allocating adequate resource support (funding) for women-related health issues.
6. Public provisioning for women-friendly toilets.
7. Promote vasectomy as a main form of birth control.

Team: Sugandha Ramamoorthi, A. Nirmala, V. Vimalya, A. Selvi and S. Anita

Target 5.6b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular Information and Communications Technology to promote the empowerment of women

1. The accessibility and reach of the TV even at the grassroots has been ensured, thanks to TV sets being provided free of charge by the government. However, it is being used primarily as an entertainment medium. This has to be supplemented with informative and educative programs that appeal to the viewer.
2. Increase use and reach of the community radio services with a focus on programmes meant to empower women with access to information and services.
3. A shift in news media reporting from negative sensationalization to positive inspirational stories.
4. Informed and responsible use of the Internet; with awareness on women's safety towards safeguarding women against sexual harassment and exploitation in the virtual space.
5. Critical awareness about the sexist and stereotypical portrayal of women in films and concerted efforts to demand non discriminatory practices both in portrayal of women in films/TV serials and payment of wages on par with male actors.
6. Media and Information literacy inclusive of an inventory of skills that enable people to analyze, evaluate, and create messages in a wide variety of media modes, genres, and formats, must be made mandatory for parents, educators and children.

Team: Dr. A. Santha, M. Gomathi, K. Rajasuganya, S. Kannan, R. Jeyalakshmi
and Senthil Pandi

Target 5.6 c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels

The Protection of Women against Domestic Violence Act, 2005

1. Adequate fund allocation for implementation of PWDVA and appointment of protection officers at district and sub district level.
2. Infrastructure and privacy should be created for the victims to talk about their personal stories.
3. Protection officers should be adequately trained to counsel victims and be given authority to deal with the case.

Protection of Women from Sexual Harassment at Workplace, 2013

1. Internal Complaint Committee (ICC) and Local Complaint Committee (LCC) should be formed in all work places.
2. Awareness must be created about the nature and composition of these committees and capacity building of these committee members and mechanisms to operationalize these structures need to be given priority.
3. Members of local governance bodies such as councilors, panchayat members and government functionaries must initiate measures to disseminate awareness and knowledge about the functioning of the committees from the local to the state.
4. Child sexual abuse should not be treated as a compoundable offence (compromising and settling the case by giving compensation or asking the victim to marry the perpetrator).
5. The government should ensure rehabilitation, livelihood and counseling support for the victim.

Team: Manohari Das, Kameshwari, Palaniammal, Kala Newton (advocate) and Dr. SP Denisia